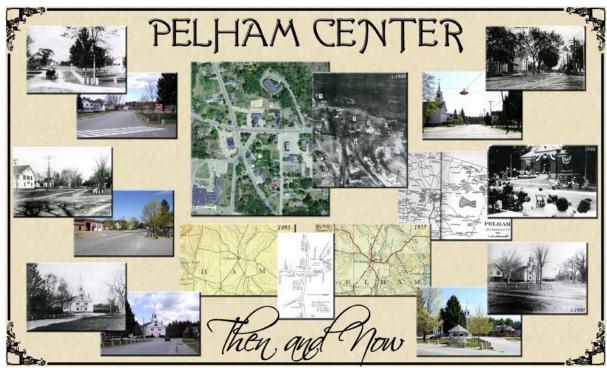
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1.1 Purpose of Public Involvement Plan

The purpose of this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to communicate information about a wide range of activities that are involved in the Pelham 14491 Route 111A intersections project. This PIP will:

- Communicate the principles of the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process that will be incorporated on the Pelham 14491 project;
- Communicate information about the project team:
- Communicate upcoming meeting dates; and
- Describe the communication methods that will be implemented to inform the community

The PIP will be distributed at the December 2006, Working Group (WG) meeting. The PIP will be updated periodically to reflect updates to schedule and other items that change over the course of the project. The PIP will not be considered a completed document until the end of the project's design, in approximately 2010.

1.2 Principles of Context Sensitive Solutions

The Pelham 14491 project will incorporate the principles of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS). This is a process endorsed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and is defined by FHWA as "a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility." A stakeholder is defined as a person or group affected by and/or with an interest in the outcome of the project. Stakeholders in the Pelham 14491 project include:

- Citizens who live, work and/or travel along NH 111A, Old Bridge Street, Main Street, Nashua Road, and other ancillary roads connected to the Town center;
- Municipal, regional, and state government elected and appointed officials;
- Groups with environmental, economic, or other concerns:

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- Local utility companies;
- Resource agencies such as the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), NH Division of Historic Resources (NHDHR), US Army Corps of Engineers (COE);
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA);
- And the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT).

The CSS process has 15 guiding principles that have been divided into two groups: 1) Qualities of Excellence in Transportation Design and 2) Characteristics of the Process Contributing to Excellence (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/csd/qualities.htm). The 15 principles are listed below:

Qualities of Excellence in Transportation Design

- The project satisfies the purpose and needs as agreed to by a full range of stakeholders. This
 agreement is forged in the earliest phase of the project and amended, as warranted, as the project
 develops.
- 2. The project is a safe facility for both the user and the community.
- 3. The project is in harmony with the community, and it preserves environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic, and natural resource values of the area, i.e., exhibits context sensitive design.
- 4. The project exceeds the expectations of both designers and stakeholders and achieves a level of excellence in people's minds.
- 5. The project involves efficient and effective use of the resources (time, budget, community) of all involved parties.
- 6. The project is designed and built with minimal disruption to the community.
- 7. The project is seen as having added lasting value to the community.

Characteristics of the Process Contributing to Excellence

- 1. Communication with all stakeholders is open, honest, early, and continuous.
- 2. A multidisciplinary team is established early, with disciplines based on the needs of the specific project, and with the inclusion of the public.
- 3. A full range of stakeholders is involved with transportation officials in the scoping phase. The purposes of the project are clearly defined, and consensus on the scope is forged before proceeding.
- 4. The highway development process is tailored to meet the circumstances. This process should examine multiple alternatives that will result in a consensus of approach methods.
- 5. A commitment to the process from top agency officials and local leaders is secured.
- 6. The public involvement process, which includes informal meetings, is tailored to the project.
- 7. The landscape, the community, and valued resources are understood before engineering design is started.
- 8. A full range of tools for communication about project alternatives is used (e.g., visualization).

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1.3 Project Background

The project is located in the Town of Pelham and seeks to address two intersections (NH 111A / Nashua Road / Old Bridge Street / Main Street intersection and NH 111A / Old Bridge Street / Common Street intersection) along with the approaching roadways leading into the Town Center. The project was initiated through the regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) process at the request of local elected officials in 2003 and added to the State's Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (2005 – 2014) on the "Recommended Future Additions List". Subsequently, the project received earmarked funding totaling \$3.94 M dollars (\$3.15M federal dollars) to improve safety at the NH 111A intersections and has since been included in the most recent Ten-Year Plan (2007 – 2016) as a new project for construction in 2010.



The first evidence of concern at the NH 111A intersections appeared back in 1993 when the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) was asked to perform a Signal Warrant Analysis Report for two abovementioned intersections. This report completed in 1993, and updated in June of 2000, concluded that the NH 111A / Nashua Road / Old Bridge Street / Main Street intersection warranted signalization. Although the NH 111A / Old Bridge Street / Common Street intersection did not warrant signals, it was recommended to include signals to manage backups and the potential long queue lengths that would result once the NH 111A / Nashua Road / Old Bridge Street / Main Street intersection was signalized.

In 2002, the Pelham Board of Selectmen commissioned GEOD Consulting of Boston, Massachusetts to complete a traffic study to assess the existing and future conditions of the three intersections that comprised the

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triangle in the Pelham Town Center. The study, completed in April 2002, concluded that the NH 111A / Nashua Road / Old Bridge Street / Main Street and NH 111A / Old Bridge Street / Common Street intersections operated at a poor level of service with long delays during the evening peak hour. It also evaluated the potential for three other conceptual alternatives (Stop Condition, Signalized Intersections, and Roundabout) and concluded that the latter two conceptual alternatives had merit for further investigation.

In 2003, the Nashua Regional Planning Commission updated the signal warrant analysis using more recent traffic data. This data confirmed the analysis and conclusions from the 2002 GEOD study described above. During 2004 and 2005, and NRPC conducted a modeling study of a number of alternatives at the request of the Pelham Highway Safety Committee. This study used the NRPC travel demand model to analyze the impact of changes on traffic throughout the town due to possible operational changes at the town center intersections. This study analyzed 5 different approaches to traffic operation at the two town center intersections and intersections in the immediate proximity. As a result of these studies and on-going concern with traffic conditions, the town sought funding for improvements to the intersections which were included in the transportation reauthorization in August 2005.

The project was identified as a strong candidate to use the CSS approach and has since been added to the Department's list of pilot CSS projects. With the aid of the NRPC and input from the Department, the Pelham Selectboard, on August 1, 2006, appointed 20 Pelham residents and Officials to serve on a Working Group for the CSS project. These 20 members, along with representatives from the NRPC and NHDOT form a diverse group to lead the CSS process for the project.

1.4 Project Team

The project team consists of:

- The Pelham Working Group (WG);
- NHDOT staff representing the anticipated types of disciplines that will likely be required;
- Staff of the NRPC to facilitate the CSS process;

The WG members are comprised of citizens, who live in the Town Center area and others who represent the elderly, school, church, and business interests in the area; along with town officials representing the Selectboard, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Historical Society, Town Administrator's Office, Planning Director's Office, Police, and Fire Departments. Also the NRPC and NHDOT staff represent the regional and state transportation interests. The WG serves in an advisory role (tasked with making recommendations to the NHDOT) and is anticipated to be involved with the project from the project planning phase through the end of the project's design.

The table below lists the WG members, along with their contact information and representation.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	REPRESENTATION
Joyce Mason	121 Marsh Rd, Pelham	635-2447	Council on Aging
Phil Curriier	10 Tallant Rd, Pelham	886-1114	Historical Society & Congregational Church
Father Bob	St. Patrick's Church, Main St, Pelham	635-3525	St. Patrick's Church
Herman Hansen	70 Keyes Hill Rd, Pelham	882-2146	Veterans

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NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	REPRESENTATION
Eleanor Burton	83 Sherburne Rd, Pelham	635-2319	Schools
Marc Duquette	33 Marsh St, Pelham	635-1813	Neighborhood
Linda Stecchi	11 Main St, Pelham	635-9251	Neighborhood
Shirley Sutton	9 Main St, Pelham	635-3767	Neighborhood
John Crane	11 Nashua Rd, Pelham	635-3333	Center Business – Funeral Home
Michael Marion	5 Woodbury Ave, Pelham	635-7646	Center Business
Leo Thibeault	18 Simpson Rd, Pelham	635-8166	NRPC Commissioner
Mary Robin Bousa	3 May Lane, Pelham	635-0839	Planning Board
Dave Hennessey	71 Dutton Rd, Pelham	635-3084	Zoning Board of Appeals
Paul Dadak	103 Sherburne Rd, Pelham	635-3923	Conservation Commission
Jean-Guy Bergeron	6 Village Green, Pelham	635-7171	Selectboard / State Representative
Hal Lynde	6 Village Green, Pelham	635-7215	Selectboard
Tom Gaydos	6 Village Green, Pelham	508-3070	Town Administrator
Joseph Roark	6 Village Green, Pelham	508-3012	Police Captain
Mike Walker	6 Village Green, Pelham	508-3050	Fire Chief
Jeff Gowan	6 Village Green, Pelham	508-3084	Planning Director
Tim Roach	115 Main St, Nashua	883-0366	NRPC
Chris Waszczuk	7 Hazen Dr, Concord	271-6675	NHDOT
Linda Wilson	19 Pillsbury St, Concord	271-6434	NHDHR
James Lamontagne	63 Old Bridge Street, Pelham	396-7175	Neighborhood
Clifton Hayes	15 Balcom Road, Pelham	635-2942	Neighborhood

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The Table below lists the NHDOT and NRPC staff, as well as their contact information and discipline

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	BUREAU, POSITION
Bill Oldenburg	7 Hazen Dr, Concord	271-2171	Highway Design, Preliminary Design Chief
Craig Green	7 Hazen Dr, Concord	271-2171	Highway Design, Administrator
Trent Zanes	7 Hazen Dr, Concord	271-2171	Highway Design, Senior Preliminary Design Engineer
Kerrie Diers	115 Main St, Nashua	883-0366	NRPC
Kevin Nyhan	7 Hazen Dr, Concord	271-3226	Environment, Environmental Coordinator

2.0 PROJECT PROCESS

2.1 NHDOT Project Development Process

All NHDOT projects, including the Pelham 14491 project, are developed through a seven-step project development process illustrated below.

- Project Scoping / Data Collection / Coordination
- Preliminary Engineering Studies / Environmental Evaluation
- > Identification of Preferred Alternative / Draft Environmental Documentation
- > Formal Public Hearing Process
- > Selected Alternative / Final Environmental Documentation
- Final Design (Project Construction Plan Development) / Right-of-Way Acquisition
- Project Construction

This process is described in more detail in the 'Project Development making transportation projects a reality' guide that is available on the Department's website at the following link: http://webster.state.nh.us/dot/public/reports.htm under the Citizens Guide to Transportation Series section. The CSS process seeks to gather critical community-level input into the first three phases of the project development process prior to identifying a "Preferred Alternative" for presentation, as well as, requesting layout approval at the formal Public Hearing.

Currently, the project is in the Project Scoping, Data Collection, and Coordination Phase. The project team through the WG, will hold a "placemaking workshop" to help create a vision for the project area, and subsequently develop a problem statement, vision statement, and alternative screening criteria. The aforementioned will be used in the development of project alternatives, identification of the preferred alternative, as well as, the environmental documentation for the project.

Once the "Preferred Alternative" has been identified and draft environmental documental completed, a formal Public Hearing will be held to procure approval for the project's layout. The Hearing will be overseen by a Hearing Commission that is comprised of three members appointed by the Governor and Executive Council, whom are tasked to a make a decision on the layout of the preferred alternative that has been identified for the project. At the Public Hearing, the Department will make a formal presentation and public testimony will be taken, recorded, and transcribed for the Hearing Commission to determine the occasion for the layout as presented. All issues and/or comments raised at the Public Hearing or during the hearing comment period will be documented and addressed in a report termed the *Report of the Commissioner* (ROTC). The project team will coordinate with the WG to help address each issue raised at the Hearing prior to the finalization of the ROTC. Should the Hearing Commission vote in favor of the project's layout, then the project will advance to the

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Final Design / Right-of-Acquisition stage. The Public Hearing and subsequent layout approval represents a major milestone in the project development phase as it solidifies the major aspects and right of way requirements of the project's design.

2.2 Project Meetings

Several types of meetings are planned over the course of this project. They are described in the sections below.

2.2.1 WG Meetings

The purpose of the WG meetings is to obtain input from the team and to facilitate the flow of information and ideas between the team, community, and public at-large. Presently, five WG meetings are planned over the next 12 – 18 months.

The first WG meeting was held on August 9, 2006. This meeting served as an orientation session as well as a project kick-off meeting. At the meeting, members of the WG were provided a brief history of the project, an overview of CSS, description of "placemaking", and explanation of how the CSS process would be implemented for the project. The CSS steps and public participation process were described in sequential fashion with the first step involving a Placemaking Workshop, followed by a meeting to reach consensus on a problem statement, meeting to reach consensus on a vision statement, meeting to develop and concur on screening criteria, meeting to brainstorm and screen alternatives, and meeting to reach consensus on a Preferred Alternative. Once a preferred alternative has been identified a formal Public Hearing to procure approval for the project layout would be held.

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

The WG has an important and challenging task of providing public input to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation in several important areas for the Pelham 14491 Route 111A intersections project: a statement of problems and needs, a project Vision statement, developing concepts to address the problems and needs to meet the Vision, and advising the Department on selecting a preferred alternative for the project design.

Because of the significance and complexity of the issues with which the Working Group will be dealing, it is important to make the most effective use of our meeting times. Therefore, as a group, we commit to the following guidelines and procedures:

A. How we treat each other:

- Each member has an equal right to speak and ask questions. There are no "dumb questions".
- Each member is encouraged to share individual viewpoints. Individual opinions are valid whether others agree with them or not.
- We will listen to, respect and seek to understand the views of others, particularly those perspectives that differ from our own.
- Disagreements will be explored not suppressed. In some instances, however, disagreements may be discussed outside of the Working Group meetings so that we are not distracted from achieving the purpose of the meetings.
- We will be courteous when addressing other members, staff and consultants.
- We will refrain from interrupting each other, staff or consultants.
- We will keep our comments relevant to the topic under discussion.

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B. How we make decisions:

- The Working Group will operate by consensus whenever possible. Consensus does not necessarily mean agreement or active support by each member. Those not objecting are not necessarily indicating that they favor, but merely that they can "live with it."
- In the absence of consensus, a super majority of three-quarters (75%) of the Working Group members present is required for approval of an action.
- Participation in the decision-making of the Working Group shall be limited to its members.
- In order to provide continuity in the group's discussions, members are asked to make every effort to attend all meetings. However, if a member cannot attend, he or she may designate an alternate to attend and participate in discussions of the Working Group in his or her absence.
- Non-members shall attend as observers and may be invited to offer comments, if time allows.

C. How we communicate with those outside the Working Group:

- As it is NHDOT's intent that the members of the Working Group represent the interests of a wide cross-section of citizens who live and work in the project area, Working Group members are encouraged to report on project issues to others who live and work in this area, particularly to groups or organizations to which they belong, and to bring input to Working Group meetings that reflects the interests of these individuals and groups.
- It will be helpful if Working Group members explain to others the process being used to develop the project concepts so they better understand how the project is progressing.

To assist us in making good use of our time, we request that the facilitation team do the following:

- Present Working Group meeting preliminary agendas and pertinent meeting material in advance.
- Ensure that multiple Working Group members have the opportunity to participate in discussions within the time allocated for each agenda item.
- Remind us of deviations from timelines; guidelines; and our basic purpose.
- Meeting notes will be disseminated to the working group members within two weeks following the meeting.

We believe that following these guidelines and procedures will help us to develop advice that is fully considered and will be well received by the Department, the public, and the appropriate Federal, State, and local government leaders and agencies whose support is essential for carrying out our recommendations.

Anticipated topics of discussion for remaining meetings:

WG Meeting 1: {Was Held on August 19, 2006}

- Discuss Context Sensitive Solutions Approach and Process
- Discuss Placemaking and upcoming Placemaking Workshop
- Discuss Working Group Roles and Responsibilities

WG Meeting 2: {Was Held on December 21, 2006}

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- Review Placemaking Results
- Discuss Draft Problem Statement
- Call for Consensus on Problem Statement
- Discuss Draft Public Involvement Plan
- Discuss Vision Statements
- Develop Project Vision Statement

WG Meeting 3:

- Discuss Project Vision Statement
- Call for Consensus on Vision Statement
- Develop Alternative Rating Criteria
- Results of preliminary studies
- Discuss Short-term Low-cost Improvements

WG Meeting 4:

- Consensus on Rating Criteria
- Review Conceptual Alternatives
- Discuss Other Alternatives

WG Meeting 5:

- Results of Public Informational / Public Workshop meeting
- Discuss Preferred Alternative
- Call for Consensus on Preferred Alternative

2.2.2 Placemaking Workshop

The objective of the placemaking workshop is for the Pelham residents to evaluate how well the roadway corridors leading to the Town Center perform and to identify opportunities that exist along these corridors. The ideas generated will help define the context of the area and guide the development of options to improve the transportation system in the Town Center. Participants will conduct a Place Audit exercise at seven locations in and around the Town Center to evaluate how the locations perform in terms of Access & Linkages, Uses & Activities, Comfort & Image, and Sociability. Participants will also develop lists of opportunities, problems, and a draft problem statement for their locations. This workshop will be widely advertised within the community with flyers posted in prominent public places and on the Town's website. Advertisements of the meeting will also be included in several local and region newspapers. The placemaking workshop is intended to be held in the late afternoon / early evening in order to field review the area. The placemaking workshop was held on October 19, 2006.

2.2.3 Public Workshop / Public Informational Meeting

The objective of the public workshop / public informational meeting is to review the problem & vision statements, review the rating criteria, and receive feedback on the project alternatives that are acceptable to the community and public at-large. The meeting will be widely advertised within the community with notices posted in prominent public places and on the Town's website. Advertisements of the meeting will also be included in several local and region newspapers. Meeting notices will also be mailed to the abutters within the project limits, and local, region, and state Officials. The public workshop / public informational meeting is intended to be an afternoon / evening session to discuss the various aspects of the project and gather input from the community as to the

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alternatives that they feel will help to solve the project problems and needs and fit with the community's vision for the project. The public workshop / public informational meeting is tentatively scheduled for July/August 2007.

2.2.4 Public Hearing

Once a Preferred Alternative has been identified for the project and the environmental documentation completed, a formal Public Hearing to secure layout approval for the project will be scheduled. The Public Hearing will be held within the Town of Pelham. The Hearing will be widely advertised within the community with notices posted in prominent public places and on the Town's website. Hearing notices will also be advertised in several local and region newspapers. Certified mailings will be sent to all abutting property owners potentially directed impacted by the projects. Mailings will also be sent to local, region, and state Officials, as well as, environmental and interested groups. The Public Hearing and subsequent layout approval represents a major milestone in the project development phase as it solidifies the major aspects and right of way requirements of the project's design. The conclusion of a successful Public Hearing phase, which represents the project at a 30% stage, allows the project to proceed to final design and right of way procurement.

2.3 Project Schedule

The proposed project-meeting schedule is attached. The schedule is approximate and subject to change. Additional interim meetings may be necessary to reach consensus on certain items prior to advancing forward to the next step.

2.3.1 Design Schedule

Preliminary Design (CSS Process)

Public Hearing

Layout Approval

> Final Design & ROW Procurement

Construction

August 2006 – February 2008

February 2008 June 2008

June 2008 - February 2010

Spring 2010

3.0 COMMUNICATION METHODS

Effective communication is essential to the on-going success of the project. Below is a description of the communication methods that are planned for the project. As the project progresses, public involvement will be assessed periodically to determine if the methods of communication in use are effective or if adjustments are needed.

3.1 NHDOT Website

As an element of the NHDOT Public Interest webpage, the Pelham 14491 project will be added and used to post pertinent project information, meeting agendas, and meeting summaries or notes. The webpage can be accessed via http://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/index.htm. The purpose of the website is to keep the public informed about the project and provide another way for the public to provide input. The website content will be updated at project milestones and, as necessary, after project meetings. For questions or comments on the material posted on the website, please contact the NHDOT Project Manager:

• Christopher Waszczuk, NHDOT Project Manager, at cwaszczuk@dot, state.nh.us or (603) 271-6675.

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3.1.1 Town Website

A link from the town website http://www.pelhamweb.com to the project's WebPages on the NHDOT website will be provided.

3.2 E-mail

A primary method of communication for the working group members will be via e-mail. Individual e-mail addresses for the working group members are contained within the project files. Meeting agendas, meeting notes, and other pertinent project information will be disseminated to the working group via this method of communication.

3.3 Meetings

Working Group meetings, Public Informational meetings, and Workshops will be used as different avenues to disseminate and discuss pertinent project related information.

3.4 Media

In order to help maximize the distribution of meeting notices for the Public Workshops, Public Informational meetings, and Public Hearing, news releases and/or meeting notices will be provided to local and regional newspapers and posted on the Town's Public Access Cable Channel.

Eagle Tribune

- Publication Frequency: daily
- Distribution Area: greater Lawrence, Southern NH communities
- Address: 100 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845
- Phone: 978-686-2911Fax: 978-686-0755
- E-mail: jmackenzie@eagletribune.com & margosullivan@eagletribune.com
- **Deadline**: 3:00 pm three days prior to the advertisement
- www.eagletribune.com

Lowell Sun

- Publication Frequency: daily
- Distribution Area: greater Lowell, Southern NH communities
- Address: 15 Kearney Square, Lowell, MA 01842
- Phone: 508-458-3311Fax: 508-970-4700www.lowellsun.com

Union Leader

- Publication Frequency: daily
- **Distribution Area**: greater Manchester
- Address: 100 William Loeb Drive, Manchester, NH 03108-9555
- Phone: 603-668-4321 or 800-562-8218
- www.unionleader.com
- writeus@unionleader.com (newsroom)

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- Pelham-Windham News (Area News Group Papers)
 - Publication Frequency: weekly (Friday)
 - Distribution Area: every home in Hudson, Litchfield, Pelham, Windham (direct mail)
 - Address: 43 Lowell Road, Hudson, NH 03051
 - Phone: 603-880-1516Fax: 603-879-9707
 - http://www.areanewsgroup.com/pelhamNews.html Pelham-Windham
 - Deadline: Monday 3:00 pm prior to Friday edition
 - Calendar: Yes "Good for the Community," print & online, email news@areanewsgroup.com

Neighborhood News Inc. (The Bedford Bulletin, The Salem Observer)

- Publication Frequency: weekly
- Distribution Area: Bedford Bulletin—Bedford, Amherst, Merrimack, Manchester; Salem Observer—Salem, Pelham, Windham
- Address: 1662 Elm Street, Suite 100, Manchester, NH 03101
- Phone: 603-314-0447Fax: 603-314-0932
- www.yourneighborhoodnews.com
- Salem Observer: dhalen@salemobserver.com
- Contact: Darrell Halen, Staff Writer, Salem Observer

> Nashua Telegraph

- Publication Frequency: daily
- Distribution Area: (west-east) New Ipswich, Temple, Lyndeborough, Wilton, Greenville, Mason, Mont Vernon, Milford, Brookline, Amherst, Hollis, Bedford, Merrimack, Nashua, Litchfield, Hudson, Londonderry, Windham, Pelham, Pepperell (MA), Dunstable (MA), Tyngsborough (MA)
- Address: P.O. Box 1008, Nashua, NH 03061
- Phone: 603-594-6440Fax: 603-314-0932
- http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?category=homepage
- Contact: Jonathan Van Fleet (City Editor) 603-594-6465, <u>jvanfleet@nashuatelegraph.com</u>;
 Melanie S. Hitchcock (Region Editor) 603-594-6584, <u>mhitchcock@nashuatelegraph.com</u>
- Salem Observer: dhalen@salemobserver.com
- **Deadlines:** 2 weeks in advance for community calendar

3.5 Flyers

In order to help maximize interest and encourage Pelham residents and other members of the public to attend the Public Workshops, Public Informational meetings, and Public Hearing, flyers will be developed with the aid of the working group members. Flyers will be posted in prominent public places within the Town of Pelham, sent to the local and regional newspapers, and posted on the Town's Public Access Cable Channel.

3.6 Visual Simulations

As the project progresses, photovisual simulations will be created for selected areas within the project to provide the public with realistic images that will help them to visualize what proposed alternatives may look like. The simulations will be posted on the project website.

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